11 Publication number:

0 265 984

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

- Application number: 87201902.1
- Date of filing: 05.10.87

(1) Int. Cl.4: G11B 7/007, G11B 7/26, G11B 20/06, G11B 23/00, G11B 27/30

- 3 Priority: 06.10.86 NL 8602504 20.03.87 NL 8700655
- Date of publication of application: 04.05.88 Bulletin 88/18
- Designated Contracting States: BE DE ES FR GB IT NL SE

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Optically readable record carrier for recording information, method and apparatus for manufacturing such a record carrier, apparatus for recording information on such a record carrier, and apparatus for reading information recorded on such a record carrier.

 A record carrier (40) comprises a radiation-sen-selection in the second substrate (42) and a disc-shaped substrate (42) and is provided with an information-recording area arranged in accordance with a spiral-shaped or con-

centric pattern of preformed tracks (41). The track exhibits a track modulation in the form of a radial wobble whose frequency is modulated with a position-information signal (lp). Further, an apparatus (1) is disclosed for forming the track pattern during the manufacture of the record carrier (40). When an information signal (Vi) is recorded on the record carrier (40) and the recorded signal is read an FM demodulation device (60) recovers the position-information signal lp from the variations in the scanning beam (54, 54a) produced by the track modulation. Moreover, a clock signal for the purpose of scanning-velocity control is recovered from these variations in the scanning beam.

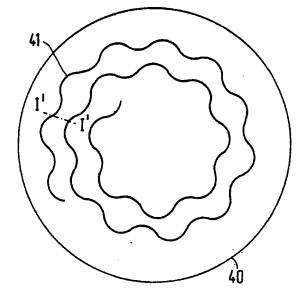


FIG. 4a

"Optically readable record carrier for recording information, method and apparatus for manufacturing such a record carrier, apparatus for recording information on such a record carrier, and apparatus for reading information recorded on such a record carrier."

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The invention relates to an optically readable record carrier comprising a radiation/sensitive layer upon a disc-shaped substrate and provided with an information recording area arranged in accordance with a spiral or concentric track pattern, which record carrier is intended for the recording and/or reproduction of the information in the information recording area by means of a radiation beam, which information recording area exhibits a periodic track modulation.

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The invention further relates to a method of manufacturing a record carrier and to an apparatus for manufacturing a record carrier, comprising a writing device for writing the track pattern by means of a radiation beam and a control device for generating a periodic control signal for the writing device so as to obtain a track modulation whose frequency corresponds to the frequency of the periodic control signal.

The invention further relates to an apparatus for recording information on a record carrier, comprising means for scanning the information recording area by means of a radiation beam, a modulation device for modulating the radiation beam depending on an information signal, an optical system with a detector for detecting the radiation reflected or transmitted by the record carrier during scanning.

The invention also relates to an apparatus for reading a record carrier, on which record carrier an information signal is recorded in the information recording area, comprising a scanning device for scanning the information recording area with a substantially constant velocity by means of a radiation beam, an optical system with a detector for detecting the radiation reflected or transmitted by the record carrier during scanning, a device for deriving from the radiation detected by the detector an information signal representing the recorded information.

Such a record carrier and such apparatuses are known from the Applicant's German Offenlegungsschrift no. 3100421 (PHN 9666).

The known record carrier has a spiral track which exhibits a track modulation of constant frequency. As the spiral track is scanned by means of the radiation beam during reading and/or recording this track modulation produces a modulation of the radiation beam. This modulation is detected and from the modulation thus detected a clock signal is derived which is utilized for controlling the recording and/or reading process.

Further, the spiral track is provided with information recording areas between which synchronisation areas are interposed. The information recording areas are intended for the recording of information. The synchronisation areas contain position information in the form of the address of the adjacent information recording area. The position information in the synchronisation areas makes it possible to determine which part of the record carrier is being scanned from the reflected radiation beam during scanning. This enables a specific part of the disc to be located rapidly and accurately.

However, the known record carrier has the disadvantage that the information recording areas are constantly interrupted by synchronisation areas. This is a drawback in particular when EFM-encoded information is to be recorded on the record carrier. This is because such a recording method requires an uninterrupted information recording area.

It is the object of the invention to provide means which make it possible to record EFM encoded signals and which during scanning make it possible to determine which part of the disc is being scanned from the light beam reflected by the record carrier.

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention a record carrier of the type defined in the opening paragraph is characterized in that the frequency of the track modulation is modulated with a digital position-information signal. In accordance with a second aspect of the invention an apparatus for manufacturing the record carrier is characterized in that the apparatus comprises frequencymodulation means for frequency-modulating the control signal with a digital position-information signal. In accordance with a third aspect of the invention an apparatus for recording information as defined in the foregoing is characterized in that the recording apparatus comprises an FM demodulation device for recovering the position-information signal from the clock signal. In accordance with a fourth aspect of the invention an apparatus for reading information of the type defined in the foregoing is characterized in that the reading appartatus comprises an FM demodulation device for recovering the position-information signal from the clock signal. During reading and/or recording this enables the clock signal to be generated, the position of the part of the disc being scanned to be determined, and the signal to be recorded and/or read simultaneously.

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An embodiment of the record carrier in which the clock signal is utilized for controlling the velocity with which the information recording area is scanned by the radiation beam during recording and/or reproduction, is characterized in that at the nominal scanning velocity of the information-recording area the frequency components produced in the clock signal by the digital position-information signal are situated at least substantially outside the frequency band used for velocity control. As the frequency components caused by the track modulation are situated outside the frequency band used for velocity control the presence of these frequency components does not disturb velocity control.

Another attractive embodiment of the record carrier, in which the information recording area comprises a track modulation constituted by a periodic radial wobble of the track, is characterized in that the periodic wobble exhibits the frequency modulation. A further embodiment of the record carrier is characterized in that the track is constituted by substantially spiral-shaped or concentric ridges of substantially constant width, which ridges exhibit the radial wobble.

A further embodiment of the record carrier is characterized in that the width of the ridges is larger than the average width of the intermediate grooves. When an information structure formed on the ridges is read the influence of any irregularly shaped edges of the ridges, which irregularities may give rise to additional noise, is then minimal.

Such a record carrier having a ridge-like track of constant width can be manufactured by means of a method in which a master disc is obtained by scanning a substrate provided with a radiationsensitive layer with a radiation beam along substantially concentric or spiral-shaped paths which exhibit a radial wobble, the scanned portions of the radiation-sensitive layer being removed by subsequently developing the radiation-sensitive layer of the substrate, which method is characterized in that the information layer is scanned along a path which is the complement of the desired path of the track on the record carrier to be manufactured, the record carrier with a track pattern which is the complement of the track pattern on the master disc being manufactured starting from the master disc.

In the above method of manufacturing record carriers having a track pattern of ridges of constant width the upper sides of the ridges corresponds to the bottoms of the grooves on the master disc. The bottoms of the grooves are constituted by the highly smooth surface of the substrate, so that the corresponding upper sides of the ridges on the finished record carrier are also very smooth, resulting in a very satisfactory reflection. Thus, during

reading of an information structure formed on the upper sides of the ridges a high signal level and hence a satisfactory signal-to-noise ratio are obtained.

Such a record carrier may alternatively be manufactured using a method in which a master disc provided with a track pattern is obtained by scanning a substrate provided with a radiationsensitive layer with a radiation beam along a path corresponding to the desired spiral-shaped or concentric path of the track on the record carrier, which track is provided with a radial wobble, and by subsequent local removal of the radiation-sensitive layer by developing said layer, after which the record carriers are obtained by copying the track pattern on the master disc, which method is characterized in that the radiation-sensitive layer is constituted by a radiation-sensitive material of which exclusively the non-exposed portions can be removed by development.

Embodiments of the invention and further advantages thereof will now be described in more detail, by way of example, with reference to Figures 1 to 8, in which

Figure 1 shows an apparatus in accordance with the invention for manufacturing a record carrier,

Figure 2 shows a signal Ip generated in the apparatus shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 shows the frequency spectrum of the signal Ip in Figure 2,

Figure 4 shows a record carrier in accordance with the invention,

Figure 5 shows an apparatus in accordance with the invention for recording an information signal.

Figure 6 shows an apparatus in accordance with the invention for reading an information signal, and

Figures 7a, 7b and 8 show another embodiment of the record carrier in accordance with the invention.

Figure 1 shows an apparatus for manufacturing a record carrier in accordance with the invention. The apparatus 1 comprises a turntable 2 which is rotated by a drive means 3. A disc-shaped substrate 4, for example a flat glass plate with a light-sensitive layer 5, for example in the form of a photoresist, can be placed on the turntable 2.

A laser 6 produces a light beam 7 which is projected on the light-sensitive layer 5. The light beam 7 is first passed through a deflection device 10. The deflection device 10 is of a type by means of which a light beam can be deflected very accurately within a narrow range. The apparatus described herein suitably employs an acousto-optical deflection device. However, it is alternatively possible to use other deflection devices, such as for

example a mirror which is pivotable through a small angle, or an electro-optical deflection device. The dashed line in Figure 1 indicates the limits of the deflection range. The light beam 7 deflected by the deflection device 10 is directed to an optical head 16. The optical head comprises a mirror 17 and an objective 18 for focussing the light beam on the light-sensitive layer 5. The optical head is radially movable relative to the rotating substrate 4 by means of an actuator device 19.

By means of the optical system described above the light beam 7 is focussed on a scanning point 20 on the light-sensitive layer 5, the position of this scanning point 20 being determined by the degree of deflection of the light beam 7 caused by the deflection device 10 and the radial position of the optical head 16 relative to the substrate 4. In the shown position of the optical head 16 the deflection device 10 can deflect the scanning point 20 within a range indicated by B1. For this deflection range the scanning point 20 can be moved over a range indicated by B2 by means of the optical head 16.

Further the apparatus 1 comprises a voltagecontrolled oscillator 30, which generates a control signal for the acoustic modulator 10. The acoustic modulator 10 is of a customary type which deflects the light beam through an angle which is determined by the frequency of the control signal supplied by the voltage-controlled oscillator 30. A frequency modulator 32, for example a voltage-controlled oscillator, generates a signal whose frequency fc' is modulated with a position-information signal Ip generated by a control device 21. The control device 21 further controls the speed of the drive means 3 and the speed of the actuating device 19 in such a way that the radiation beam 7 scans the light-sensitive layer with a constant velocity along a spiral track. This control system falls beyond the scope of the present invention and is therefore not described in further detail.

The position-information signal Ip is formed by a binary signal consisting of a sequence of bit cells having a logic value "1" or "0", which signal represents a sequence of digital time-information codes. These time-information words always indicate the time expired since the beginning of the scanning operation. An example of such a signal lp is shown in Figure 2b, a part of the time-information word represented by the signal lp being shown in Figure 2a. The position-information signal lp exhibits a "biphase" modulation. The applied digital signal is then converted into a binary signal which is positive during the time interval T/2 for a logic "one" of -the applied digital signal and which is negative during the next time internal T/2. T being the bit period of the applied digital signal. A logic "zero" results in the opposite binary signal, i.e. one which

is negative during the time interval T/2 and positive during the next time interval T/2. This modulation technique yields a binary signal having a power-distribution frequency spectrum as shown in Figure 3. Here the frequency fo corresponds to 1/T.

As is apparent from Figure 3, such a "biphase" modulated signal does not exhibit strong frequency components in the low-frequency range. The advantages of this will be described comprehensively hereinafter.

By means of the apparatus shown in Figure 1. the light-sensitive layer 5 is scanned along a spiral path. Moreover, the scanning point 20 is moved to and fro over a small distance within the range B1 at a frequency corresponding to the frequency fc' of the output signal of the frequency modulator 32. As a result of this, the spiral path described by the scanning point 20 on the light-sensitive layer 5 exhibits a radial excursion whose frequency is modulated with the time-information signal lp. The light-sensitive layer 5 thus scanned, which layer consists of a photoresist, is subsequently developed to remove the portions of the radiation-sensitive layer scanned by the light beam b, yielding a master disc in which a spiral groove with a radial frequency-modulated excursion (wobble) is formed. Subsequently, replicas are made of this master disc, which replicas are provided with a radiationsensitive information layer. Figure 4 shows a record carrier 40 in accordance with the invention, manufactured as described in the foregoing.

Figure 4a is a plan view of the record carrier 40. The record carrier 40 exhibits a track pattern comprising a spiral groove 41 of constant width provided with the radial wobble. For the sake of clarity the pitch of the spiral and the radial wobble are strongly exaggerated. In reality, the pitch of the consecutive turns of the spiral path is generally of the order of magnitude of 1 to 2 um. In practice the period is suitably such that during reading of an information signal recorded on the record carrier the frequency components produced in the read signal by the radial wobble are situated substantially outside the frequency spectrum of the information signal to be recorded and/or read. If an EFM encoded signal in conformity with the customary "Compact Disc" standard is recorded a radial wobble causing frequency components near 22 kHz in the red signal with a frequency excursion of 1.5 kHz proves to be adequate. The recorded EFM encoded signal and the radial wobble then hardly influence one another.

Figure 4b is a sectional view I-I of the record carrier 40 comprising a substrate 42, a radiation-sensitive information layer 43, and a transparent coating 44.

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The record carrier shown in Figure 4 exhibits a track pattern constituted by a spiral-shaped groove of constant width. In such an information carrier the information to be recorded is provided in the groove. However, in practice it has been found that a better signal-to-noise ratio can be obtained if use is made of a record carrier having a track pattern consisting of spiral-shaped or concentric ridges of constant width, on which ridges the information is recorded. Such a record carrier 80 is shown in Figure 7a and 7b. The information tracks in the - form of ridges 81 are shown only diagrammatically in Figure 7a for an area 82 which is shown to a highly enlarged scale in Figure 7b. Figure 8 is a sectional view taken on the line VIII-VIII within the area 82 of the record carrier 80 which comprises a substrate 83, a radiation-sensitive layer 84, and a transparent coating 85.

Since in the record carrier 80 the diameter of the grooves 86 interposed between the ridges 81 is not constant as a result of the frequency-modulated radial excursion of the ridges 81, the method of manufacturing differs from the method for manufacturing record carriers having a track pattern comprising grooves of constant width as described with reference to Figure 1.

Such a track pattern of ridges of constant width can be obtained by using a method which bears much resemblance to the method described with reference to Figure 1. However, in the present case the light-sensitive layer 4 should not consist of a positive photoresist but of a negative photoresist. When a layer consisting of such a negative photoresist is developed the non-exposed portions of the photoresist are removed instead of the exposed portions, as is the case with the customary positive photoresist, after which a master disc which exhibits the desired track pattern of ridges is obtained, of which copies can be made in the customary manner.

However, a record carrier with a track pattern of ridges of constant width can also be obtained if use is made of a substrate 4 with a light-sensitive layer 4 consisting of the customary positive photoresist, the exposed portions of the layer being removed during development. In that case the substrate 4 is provided with a track pattern or grooves of constant width which is the complement of the desired track pattern of ridges of constant width. The winding sense of such a complementary track pattern of grooves is opposite to that of the desired track pattern. Thus, to obtain a substrate with a complementary track pattern it is merely necessary to select the direction of rotation during scanning of the substrate 4 so as to be opposite to the direction

tion of rotation desired during reading of the record carrier 80. The process of scanning the substrate 4 can then be controlled in the same way as described with reference to Figure 1.

After scanning during development of the lightsensitive layer 5 the scanned portions of the layer are removed again, yielding a master disc with the complementary track pattern. The master disc thus obtained, and any copies thereof, may be used as a negative for the manufacture of the record carrier 80 with a track pattern comprising ridges of constant width.

In the last-mentioned method of manufacturing record carriers with a track pattern of ridges the upper sides of the ridges on the record carrier thus manufactured correspond to the bottoms of the grooves in the master disc. The bottoms of the grooves are constituted by the very smooth surface of the substrate 4, which substrate 4 generally consists of glass. As a result of this, the corresponding upper side of the finished record carrier is also very smooth, which results in a very high reflection, yielding a high signal level and, consequently, a satisfactory signal-to-noise ratio during reading.

An even better signal-to-noise ratio can be obtained if the ridges of constant width on the record carriers are broad relative to the intermediate grooves. The influence of any irregularly formed edges of the ridge, which may give rise to an additional noise during reading, is then minimal.

Figure 5 shows an apparatus 50 in accordance with the invention for recording an information signal Vi on the record carrier 40. The apparatus 50 comprises a drive means 52 for rotating the record carrier 40 which is placed on a turntable 51. A radiation source 53 produces a radiation beam 54 for scanning the groove 41. The radiation beam 54 is then directed towards the record carrier 40 via a modulation device 55 and a semitransparent mirror 56. By means of the modulation device 55 the intensity of the beam 54 can be modulated depending on an information signal Vi to be recorded. in such a way that an optically detectable information pattern is formed in the information layer 43 at the location of the groove 41. The modulated beam 54 is then partly reflected by the information layer 43. The reflected beam is detected by means of a detection circuit 57. The detection circuit 57 generates an output signal containing frequency components produced by the radial wobble. This output signal is filtered by a band-pass filter 58 which mainly transmits the frequency components caused by the radial wobble. The instantaneous frequency fs of this output signal is employed as a measurement signal for the velocity with which the record carrier is scanned by the beam 54 (scanning velocity). This output signal of the band-pass filter 58

is applied to a control circuit 59 for generating a control signal for the drive means 52. The control circuit 59 controls the speed of rotation of the record carrier 40 via the drive means 52 so as to maintain the instantaneous frequency fs substantially equal to a reference frequency fref. The control loop thus formed for controlling the scanning velocity of the record carrier has a limited bandwidth, so that rapid frequency variations of the instantaneous frequency fs with frequency components outside this limited bandwidth do not affect the control process. As already described, in the apparatus 1 for manufacturing the record carrier the frequency of the radial wobble is modulated with a position-information signal lp which does not exhibit any strong frequency components in the low-frequency range. If the frequency band used for scanning-velocity control and the frequency spectrum of the position-information signal are adapted to one another in such a way that hardly any frequency components of this frequency spectrum are situated within this frequency band, the applied FM modulation of the radial wobble will not affect the controlled scanning velocity.

Satisfactory results when recording EFM encoded signals in conformity with the CD-standard have been obtained for an fref of approximately 22 kHz, a bit frequency of the position-information signal of approximately 3000 bits/second, and a velocity-control bandwidth of approximately 100 Hz.

The position-information signal lp is recovered from the output signal of the filter 58 by means of an FM demodulation circuit 60. This position-information signal lp indicates the position of the scanned portion of the groove 42 relative to the beginning of the groove expressed in playing time. This position-information signal lp may be used inter alia for locating the track portion in which an information signal to be recorded is to be stored. Locating this portion falls beyond the scope of the present invention and is therefore not described any further.

Figure 6 shows an apparatus 70 in accordance with the invention for reading the information signal Vi recorded on the record carrier 40, elements corresponding to elements of the apparatus 50 shown in Figure 5 bearing the same reference numerals. In the apparatus 70 the record carrier 40 on which the information signal Vi is recorded is scanned by a radiation beam 54a produced by a radiation source 53a. The intensity of the radiation beam 54a is too low to produce a change in the optical properties of the information layer 43, so that the information pattern already formed is not overwritten. The information pattern in the spiral groove with the radial wobble modulates and subsequently reflects the radiation beam 54a. The

reflected and modulated radiation beam 54a is detected by a detection device 57a. The detection device 57a comprises a first section having an increased sensitivity to the modulation of the light beam produced by the radial wobble and a second section having an increased sensitivity to the modulation produced by the information pattern. Such a detection device is described in detail in the aforementioned Offenlegungsschrift no. 3100421. The signal generated by the first section of the detection circuit 57a is applied to a filter for removing frequency components produced by the radial wobble and by the velocity control, so that the information signal Vi becomes available on the output of the filter 71. In the same way as described with reference to Figure 5 the scanning velocity is controlled by means of a control circuit 59 and the position-information signal Ip is recovered by means of the FM demodulation circuit 71. Subsequently, the signal ip may be used, for example, for locating specific portions of the record carrier or for displaying the playing time during reading of the recorded information.

In the foregoing the apparatus for recording information and the apparatus for reading the recorded information have been described as two separate apparatuses. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the two apparatuses may be readily combined to form a single apparatus both for recording and reading.

In the foregoing a track modulation in the form of a radial wobble has been provided for the purpose of scanning-velocity control in the reading and recording apparatus. It will be evident that other track modulations are also suitable for this purpose, for example those as described in German Offenlegungsschrift no. 3100278 (PHN 9667) and no. 3100421 (PHN 9666). In order to obtain a suitable track modulation care must be taken only that the scanning-beam modulation produced by the track modulation can be distinguished from the scanning-beam modulation caused by the information signal Vi and that the frequency components of these scanning-beam modulations are situated substantially outside the frequency band used for scanning-velocity control.

Claims

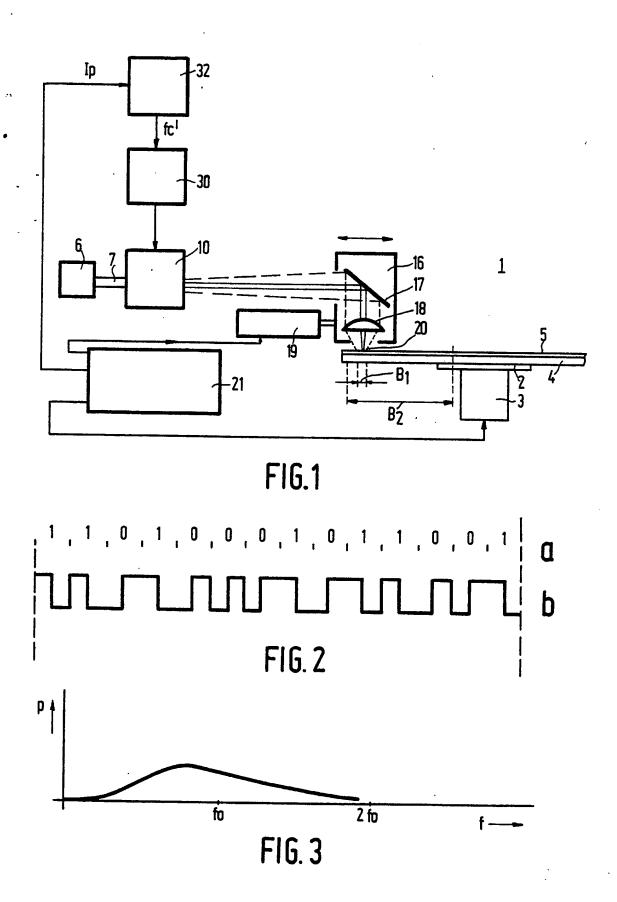
1. An optically readable record carrier comprising a radiation-sensitive layer upon a disc-shaped substrate and provided with an information recording area arranged in accordance with a spiral or concentric track pattern,, which record carrier is intended for the recording and/or reproduction of the information in the information recording area by means of a radiation beam, which information re-

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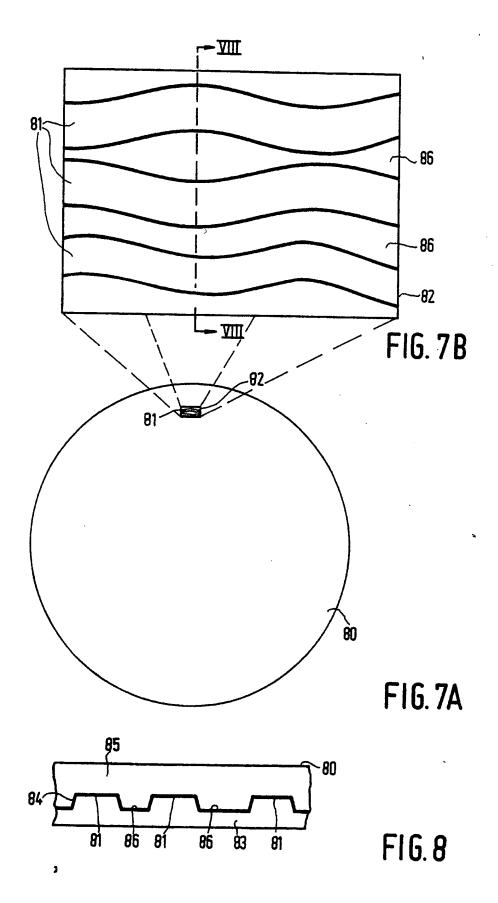
cording area exhibits a periodic track modulation, characterized in that the frequency of the track modulation is modulated with a digital position-information signal.

- 2. A record carrier as claimed in Claim 1, in which the clock signal is utilized for controlling the velocity with which the information-recording area is scanned by the radiation beam during recording and/or reproduction, characterized in that at the nominal scanning velocity of the information-recording area the frequency components produced in the clock signal by the digital position-information signal are situated at least substantially outside the frequency band used for velocity control.
- 3. A record carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the position-information signal indicates the time necessary for covering the distance from the beginning of the track pattern to the location where the position-information is present when scanning is effected with the nominal velocity.
- 4. A record carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, the information area being provided with a track modulation in the form of a periodic radial wobble of the track, characterized in that the periodic wobble exhibits the frequency modulation.
- 5. A record carrier as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that the track is constituted by substantially spiral-shaped or concentric ridges of substantially constant width, which ridges exhibit the radial wobble.
- A record carrier as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that the width of the ridges is larger than the average width of the intermediate grooves.
- 7. A method of manufacturing a record carrier as claimed in Claim 5, a master disc provided with a track pattern being obtained by scanning a substrate provided with a radiation-sensitive layer with a radiation beam along substantially concentric or spiral-shaped paths which exhibit a radial wobble, the scanned portions of the radiation-sensitive layer being removed by subsequently developing the radiation-sensitive layer of the substrate, characterized in that the information layer is scanned along a path which is the complement of the desired path of the track on the record carrier to be manufactured, the record carrier with a track pattern which is the complement of the track pattern on the master disc being manufactured starting from the master disc.
- 8. A method of manufacturing a record carrier as claimed in Claim 5, a master disc being obtained by scanning a substrate provided with a radiation-sensitive layer with a radiation beam along a path corresponding to the desired spiral-shaped or concentric path of the track on the

- record carrier to be manufactured, which track is provided with a radial wobble and by subsequent local removal of the radiation-sensitive layer by developing said layer, after which the record carriers are obtained by copying the track pattern on the master disc, characterized in that the radiation-sensitive layer is constituted by a radiation-sensitive material of which exclusively the non-exposed portions can be removed by development.
- 9. An apparatus for manufacturing a record carrier as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 to 6, comprising a writing device for writing the track pattern by means of a radiation beam and a control device for generating a periodic control signal for the writing device so as to obtain a track modulation whose frequency corresponds to the frequency of the periodic control signal, characterized in that the apparatus comprises frequency-modulation means for frequency-modulating the control signal with a digital position-information signal.
- 10. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the apparatus comprises means for generating a digital position-information signal indicating the time necessary for covering the distance from the beginning of the track to the location where the digital position-information is recorded when scanning is effected with the nominal velocity.
- 11. An apparatus for recording information on a record carrier as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 to 6, comprising means for scanning the information-recording area by means of a radiation beam, a modulation device for modulating the radiation beam depending on an information signal, an optical system with a detector for detecting the radiation reflected or transmitted by the record carrier during scanning, characterized in that the recording apparatus comprises an FM demodulation device for recovering the position-information signal from the clock signal.
- 12. An apparatus for reading a record carrier as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 to 6, on which record carrier an information signal is recorded in the information-recording area, comprising a scanning device for scanning the information-recording area with a substantially constant velocity by means of a radiation beam, an optical system with a detector for detecting the radiation reflected or transmitted by the record carrier during scanning by means of a device for deriving from the radiation detected by the detector an information signal representing the recorded information, characterized in that the reading apparatus comprises an FM demodulation device for recovering the position-information signal from the clock signal.



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X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background			T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document				